What is claimed is:

1. A method for detecting an assignment change or an address change in an address identifier comprising:

identifying a user defined port address and a first address identifier associated therewith;

monitoring a topology change trap when a port becomes associated with an address identifier; and

triggering a command based on a detected topology change trap to map said address identifier to said user defined port name.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said address identifier is a fibre channel address identifier.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said address identifier comprises D_ID and/or S_ID.

4. A method for monitoring at least one port in a device by a monitoring system, said method comprising:

detecting an address identifier associated with said port;

associating said address identifier with a user-defined port name; and

monitoring topology change traps relating to said port, wherein, upon any change in assignment of said address identifier determined by a topology change trap, any subsequent address identifier is mapped to said user defined port name.

5. The method according to claim 4 further comprising recording said user-defined port name as a field in any data reported by the monitoring system.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein said monitoring system comprises at least one probe.

7. A monitoring system capable of generating data that employs statistics or data referring to user-defined port names at least for purposes of archiving and/or viewing such data or statistics, said system comprising:

at least one probe, said probe comprising a mechanism for mapping an address identifier to a user defined port name such that upon a detected topology change trap by said system, any revised address identifier associated with any user defined port name is detected and stored by said monitoring system.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein said probe is a software device.

9. The system according to claim 7, wherein said probe is a hardware device.

10. The system according to claim 7, wherein said user-defined port name is generated as at least one field for data collection.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein said data is archived.

12. The system according to claim 10, wherein said data is used to generate reports.

13. A system for detecting an assignment change or an address change in an address identifier comprising:

means for identifying a user defined port address and a first address identifier associated therewith;

means for monitoring a topology change trap when a port becomes associated with an address identifier; and

means for triggering a command based on a detected topology change trap to map said address identifier to said user defined port name.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein said address identifier is a fibre channel address identifier.

15. A system according to claim 13, wherein said address identifier comprises D_ID and/or S_ID.

16. A system for monitoring at least one port in a device by a monitoring system, said method comprising:

means for detecting an address identifier associated with said port;

means for associating said address identifier with a user-defined port name; and

means for monitoring topology change traps relating to said port, wherein, upon any change in assignment of said address identifier determined by a topology change trap, any subsequent address identifier is mapped to said user defined port name.

17. The system according to claim 16 further comprising means for recording said user-defined port name as a field in any data reported by the monitoring system.

18. A system according to claim 16, wherein said means for monitoring system comprises at least one probe.

19. The system according to claim 18, wherein said probe is a software device.

20. The system according to claim 18, wherein said probe is a hardware device.